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the operand with the larger exponent is not less than 1.5 (or greater than 1.5 if the selection rule in Table IV is used), the process 200 makes the decision to select the result from the long path process 240 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed to correct minor typographical errors in the text of the specification in accord with option III of the NOTICE OF OMITTED ITEMS of September 13, 2001. The specification on page 12 describes one of the implementations of a selection process. In this preliminary amendment, references to FIG. 2A (including label elements 221, 223, 225, and 227) are deleted from the paragraph on page 12 and the description of the drawings, thereby bringing the description of the figures into accord with the submitted drawings. Applicants note that this amendment adds no new matter to the specification.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Under the section entitled Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments, on page 12, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph.

[FIG. 2A illustrates in more detail the selection process 220 according to one] In one embodiment of the present invention[. The] the selection process 220 comprises a step [221] for determining whether the floating-point operation is an addition operation or subtract operation. In response to the determination that the operation is an addition operation, the selection process 200 makes a decision to select the result from the long path process 240 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250. On the other hand, in response to the determination that the operation is a subtraction operation, the selection process 200 proceeds to determine the exponent difference for the two operands [at steps 223 and 225]. In response to the determination that the exponent difference is larger than 1 [at step 223], the process 200 makes the decision to select the result from the long path process 240 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250. In response to the determination [at step 225] that the exponent difference is 0, the process 200 makes a decision to select the result from the short path process 230 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250. In response to the determination at step 225 that the exponent difference is 1, the process 200 proceeds to determine[, at step 227,] whether the mantissa of the operand with the larger exponent is less than 1.5 (or not greater than 1.5 if the selection rule in Table IV is used). In response to the determination that the larger mantissa is less than 1.5 (or not greater than 1.5 if the selection rule in Table IV is used), the process 200 makes the decision to select the result from the short path process 230 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250. On the other hand, in response to the determination

that the mantissa of the operand with the larger exponent is not less than 1.5 (or greater than 1.5 if the selection rule in Table IV is used), the process 200 makes the decision to select the result from the long path process 240 and passes this decision to the result selection step 250.